

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT:OECD UNDERSTANDING ON EXPORT CREDITS AND
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE REMOVAL OF
OBSTACLES TO NORMAL COMPETITIVE CONDITIONS IN THE
SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

REF: A) MISSION/CLARKE TELCON OF JAN. 24, 1975

B) BRUSSELS A-250

DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR GRUBEL RE POSSIBLE
U.S. ACCESSION TO OECD UNDERSTANDING AND/OR GENERAL
ARRANGEMENT, U.S. REP MAY INDICATE U.S. IS NOT PRESENTLY
CONTEMPLATING BECOMING A PARTY TO EITHER. USG VIEWS BOTH
AS COUNCIL WP/6 MEMBER RESPONSES TO UNTENABLE SITUATION
WHICH AROSE AS THE RESULT OF MANY WP/6 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
EFFORTS TO GAIN COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OVER ONE ANOTHER IN
CONSTRUCTING MERCHANT VESSELS FOR EXPORT. U.S. IS NOT AN
EXPORTER OF MERCHANT SHIPS DUE TO HIGH COST OF U.S.
SHIPYARDS (COSTS 35 PERCENT TO 40 PERCENT ABOVE FOREIGN

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YARDS) NOR IS IT EXPECTED TO BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

CURRENT U.S. POLICY TO REVITALIZE SHIPYARDS AND CREATE
MODERN MERCHANT FLEET IS BASED ON NATIONAL SECURITY
CONSIDERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE U.S. TO MAINTAIN A VIABLE MER-
CHANT FLEET CAPABILITY AS WELL AS U.S. DESIRE TO CARRY
SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE. IN THE

EVENT U.S. SHIPYARDS EVER BECOME COMPETITIVE IN THE EXPORT
VESSEL MARKET, THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. ACCESSION
COULD BE REVIEWED. KISSINGER

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